

General Information

Currituck National Wildlife Refuge is located in the northern region of North Carolina's Outer Banks. The 4,392-acre refuge is managed by the staff of Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge office is located one mile from the VA/NC state-line off highway 615 near Knotts Island, North Carolina.

Currituck National Wildlife Refuge is open to waterfowl and big game hunting by permit only. Waterfowl hunting permits are issued by the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission. Information can be found in the Commission's "Permit Hunting Opportunities" publication.

Big Game Hunting Information can be found in this brochure or by contacting the refuge office at Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

General Regulations

All general refuge regulations apply, unless specifically addressed in this brochure. Restrictions and designations on the map in this brochure also apply. Public hunting is permitted in accordance with all state laws, county codes, Title 50 - Code of Federal Regulations, and the following Refuge regulations:

- Permits are required for all hunts.
- All hunters are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, bag limits, hunting equipment, boats, vehicles, and their contents during compliance checks. Violation of any Refuge regulation may result in the cancellation of your hunt permit and prosecution in Federal court.
- It is your responsibility to be familiar with all applicable Refuge, State and Federal hunting regulations before hunting on the Refuge. If you have a question concerning any Refuge regulation, please call the Refuge Office.
- Hunter access is allowed from one hour before until one hour after legal shooting hours. Waterfowl hunts must be off the Refuge by 2 pm.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- Taking or collecting any plant or animal (including reptiles and amphibians) is prohibited, except as specifically authorized by the Refuge Manager.
- The use of artificial lights (including car headlights) to locate, observe, or take animals is prohibited.
- The use of electronic calls to attract wildlife is prohibited.
- Baiting or feeding wildlife and hunting with the aid of bait are prohibited.
- Camping, fires, littering, and target practice are prohibited.
- Disturbing, molesting or interfering with any person engaged in the pursuit of an authorized activity on the Refuge is prohibited.

Use of Dogs

It is prohibited to use dogs to pursue, track or retrieve deer and feral pigs.

Youth

Youth hunters (under age 16) may possess a firearm in any hunt provided they have passed a State-approved hunter safety course and are accompanied by an adult who is at least 21 years of age. Each

adult may supervise only one youth. The adult must carry a valid State hunting license and a valid Refuge hunt permit when supervising a youth hunter.

Hunters with Disabilities

Hunting opportunities are available for disabled hunters. Please call the Refuge Office for information and to make advanced arrangements.

Waterfowl Hunting Regulations

Access

Access is by boat only. A shallow draft boat is highly recommended. Water depths change with the wind tides. Some areas may be only inches deep at low wind tide. Be prepared to pole into some areas. Some blinds may be inaccessible due to low water - if so that hunt may be canceled.

North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission Application and Draw

Hunters may apply for blinds through the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) at any Wildlife Service Agent (License Agents). The blinds on Currituck NWR are listed in the Waterfowl - Coastal section of the NCWRC's publication.

Check-in and Standby Draw

All hunters holding a NCWRC Waterfowl Hunt Permit for Currituck NWR must check-in at the Knotts Island Market no later than 5:15 am the morning of the hunt. Failure to check-in will result in the assigned blind being assigned to another hunter. A standby drawing will be held at 5:15 am at the Knotts Island Market. Standby applications must be completed before the drawing begins.

Waterfowl Regulations and Enforcement

Harvest Data Cards will be issued to all hunters. These cards must be returned to designated drop boxes or the refuge office. Failure to return the cards may impact future hunting opportunities.

No more than three hunters per blind.

Valid hunt permit issued by NCWRC or Currituck NWR is required. NCWRC Permit Holders may bring a maximum of two guests on their permit.

Hunt from assigned blind locations only. Handicapped hunters may hunt from their boat at the blind site.

Hunting will be allowed on Fridays and Saturdays only during the North Carolina Waterfowl Season.

Hunting is permitted from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 pm.

Use of guides is allowed on the Refuge. Guides must have a Special Use Permit issued by Currituck NWR. Guides are only allowed to hunt or carry a gun if they are one of the three permitted hunters. Contact the refuge office for more information.

Big Game Hunting Regulations

Public deer and feral pig hunting by shotgun, muzzleloading rifle/shotgun, pistol, and bow and arrow (crossbows are prohibited) is permitted on the Refuge on hunting dates listed below and on hunting areas shown on the map. A valid Refuge hunt permit shall be carried when hunting deer or pigs on the Refuge, additionally a valid North Carolina State big game hunting license shall be carried when hunting deer. No reservations are required and hunters may select sites and hunt anywhere within the designated hunting areas.

Permit Application

A Refuge Hunt Permit can be applied for either by mail or in person at the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center on Knott's Island, NC. There is a \$15.00 fee per person (we accept check or money order). The application for the permit must be filled out in order to receive a permit. If you received a permit last year, you will also be required to complete a harvest report with this year's application.

Access

Hunting areas may be accessed by foot, boat, and vehicle only. Vehicles are restricted to county roads and Refuge designated access routes. Parking is permitted in designated Refuge parking areas. Refuge is closed to all other activities.

All state regulations for big game hunting shall apply. Only portable deer stands are permitted.

All deer taken must be checked-in according to NC State Hunting Regulations.

Hunter Orange

All persons participating in the hunt must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of fluorescent orange material above the waistline, which is visible from all directions. A vest and hat normally meet this requirement, a hat alone does not. Once seated in an elevated stand, you may remove an orange vest, but still must wear an orange hat.

Bag Limit

Two deer per day in conjunction with state tagging requirements. Bonus deer tags are prohibited. There is no bag limit on feral pigs.

Horses

Feral horses are present in the area. These horses are short in stature and may resemble deer and pigs in both color and size. Take special care in identifying your target. It is against county ordinance to harass horses or approach them within 50 feet.

Big Game Regulations and Enforcement

The following are prohibited:

- Hunting on any open areas of beach or within the inter-dunal areas
- Use of ATV's/UTVs and any other unlicensed and unregistered vehicles.
- No dumping of animal parts within 100 feet of roads, wetlands and waterways. Hunters are responsible for the proper disposal of all animal parts.
- Driving vehicles off of county roads and hunter access routes.
- Shooting from a vehicle or shooting on or across roads or roadways.
- Hunting outside of designated areas shown on the map.
- Use of nails, bolts, or screws to attach portable stands to trees. Use of nail-, bolt-, or screw-type steps.
- Marking trees or vegetation with blazes, flagging, or other marking devices.
- Leaving a portable stand overnight. All deer and feral pigs must be killed before removing them from the Refuge.